

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.]

Societies and Branches in the Union 561.

[NON-PARTY.]

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

"Left to the Judgment of the House."

In the House of Commons on Monday, April 30th, Mr. Dillon called attention to a circular issued by the Anti-Women's Suffrage Association, upon which the name of Lord Curzon appeared as President of the Association, requesting members to oppose the consideration of women's suffrage until after the war. Mr. Dillon asked whether the Prime Minister had sanctioned a member of the War Cabinet allowing his name to be used on a circular asking members to resist the announced policy of the Government.

Mr. Bonar Law replied: As already announced, the Government has left the question of women's suffrage to the judgment of Parliament. In these circumstances it seems to be open to any association, for or against women's suffrage, whether a member of the Government be one of its members or not, to advocate its views.

Mr. Chancellor asked whether leaving the question to the judgment of the House did not involve discussion in the House. No reply was given.

Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

That the protests against the new Clause 3 of the Bill have not been in vain is shown by the important modifications introduced by the Government on Report stage. The Lord Advocate, who, in the absence of the Home Secretary has charge of the Bill, has put down amendments which limit the power given by Clause 3 in its original form to Courts of Summary Jurisdiction. The amendment provides that only a Court of Quarter Sessions can order a girl convicted under the Clause to be detained in a home till she is nineteen, and this only after having received a report from a probation officer or special committee to be established for the purpose. Because of the criticism directed against the Clause, the Lord Advocate has agreed to omit it on Report stage, and recommit the Bill in respect of the Clause as modified by the new Government amendments. Although certain objectionable features of the Clause are amended, in its suggested form, it still provides for a serious increase in the term of compulsory detention which may be imposed on girls who are convicted of solicitation and like offences. So long as the existing unequal laws of solicitation are on the Statute Book, the effect is to increase the inequality by adding to the penalties on women.

The Government opposed an amendment to raise the age of consent to seventeen. The vote has not been taken yet, however, and supporters of the amendment think it may be possible to defeat the Government on this point. Another attempt was made to introduce compulsory examination by Sir G. Greenwood, but the Lord Advocate's remark that its acceptance would bring a hornet's nest about their heads shows that the Government has learnt its lesson. From the Brentford case, to which reference is made elsewhere, it would seem that, notwithstanding its illegality, there is growing up a practice of examining women for venereal disease without asking their consent. This case is flagrant, and if the press report which makes the chairman say that "this sort of thing had been done before and would be done again" is true, the country should insist on the resignation of this magistrate.

A Dangerous Order.

In this connection, too, attention is called to an Order in Council under the Defence of the Realm Act, 35 c., of April 14th, 1917, which confers very dangerous powers on the military. It authorises the Admiralty or Army Council or Ministry of Munitions, with the consent of the Secretary of State or Secretary for Scotland, to make rules for defined areas for maintaining the efficiency of His Majesty's Forces or munition workers. Among other things, it "may empower competent naval or military authorities to impose on persons, whilst in the area, who have been convicted of any offence against public order or decency, any condition as to reporting movements or otherwise." We must insist that under this order there is no introduction of compulsory examination, and that examination for venereal disease shall not be made a condition under this order.

Removal of the Ladies' Grille.

On the Vote for the Houses of Parliament, Buildings, Mr. Dickinson urged the First Commissioner of Works to remove the grille in front of the Ladies' Gallery. Mr. Rendall supported Mr. Dickinson's demand. He pointed out that in the House of Lords women were admitted to the side galleries at all times, and on certain occasions to places on the benches of the House. It would be more gracious that the grille should be removed by the present House of Commons, which had been elected by men voters, than by a future House, the members of which might be influenced by a desire to obtain the votes of women.

We Must All Do Our Share.

"If all of us do our share," said Mr. Lloyd George, at the Mansion House, on Friday, "the German submarine campaign is beaten." But he added the grave warning, "the public must stick to their rations."

For the moderately well-to-do this is no hardship; but for the poor it is difficult indeed to keep within the bread ration when substitutes are dear, and take a long time to prepare, while potatoes can rarely be had. The situation would be eased a little if all restaurants serving dinners where the price is above, say, 1s. or 1s. 3d. were prohibited from providing potatoes at all, and if all well-to-do and middle-class households would voluntarily dispense with them. As it is, while greengrocers doing a small business are often unable to buy any potatoes, and the poor must go without, the restaurants can buy plenty. Yet restaurants, with all their cooking appliances, are much better

able to prepare bread and potato substitutes than most private households.

Some clubs have now taken potatoes off their menu altogether. Others would no doubt do the same if their members wrote and made the suggestion. Let every middle-class household, too, not only do without potatoes, but cut down its consumption of bread well below Lord Devonport's allowance. None of us are "doing our share" if we eat our full rations of the staple food of the people when we can afford to buy more costly food.

Communal Kitchens.

Another way in which the poorer classes can be helped to keep within the bread ration is by the establishment of communal kitchens all over the country, where palatable substitutes can be bought at a low price and taken away. Most working women have neither the time nor the knowledge necessary for the preparation of such dishes. Good work is being done by the demonstrations in war-time cookery arranged by the L.C.C. and by other local authorities and voluntary organisations. But only a limited number of women will attend such demonstrations, and of these not all are sufficiently skilful to carry out in their own homes the directions given. There will remain a number who—so long as they can buy as much bread as they want—will only eat substitutes if they can procure them with little trouble and at a low price. We gave an account in our issue of April 20th of the communal kitchen lately opened in Leeds. Several have already been started in London, one at Hammersmith, opened on Tuesday, selling 1,000 dinners within an hour. Others have been planned, including one shortly to be opened, in connection with the Ministry of Food, in the Westminster Bridge-road; but thousands more are wanted, and wanted at once.

A Campaign Against Waste.

Meanwhile there is a growing demand for drastic measures against the waste of foodstuffs. School children are throwing away large pieces of bread, because they are so accustomed to eat it newly baked that they cannot fancy it when twelve hours'

old or more. In some houses buckets full of bits of bread and other food fit for human consumption are being taken away to feed animals. One hears of venison being sent down from Scotland especially to feed a rich woman's forty-five pet spaniels, and of many other examples of ridiculous extravagance. Protests are daily appearing in the press against waste of this kind, and also against the use of sugar and barley for making beer and the display of cakes in shop windows.

A campaign is being organised by Mrs. Peel and Mrs. Pember Reeves, of the Ministry of Food, to convince the country of the vital necessity for rationing.

If voluntary rationing fails, compulsion must follow. Bread cards are now being printed for universal distribution in a few weeks' time if this should become necessary.

THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO ELECTORAL REFORM.

From THE OBSERVER, April 29th.

"The Prime Minister's references at the Mansion House to the covert revival of faction were brief but very significant. We ourselves would far rather that a dissolution were postponed until Electoral Reform were accomplished, and that all controversy meanwhile should be very temperately conducted. But if the tendency should be continued to attack the War Government and its head on any and every issue and occasion, with an evident desire and design to overthrow them, the challenge would have to be accepted on the present register. There would be no alternative.

"It seems so hard for some Unionists to grasp these lessons, that they play naively into the hands of their narrowest opponents. The little Liberals of the 'Organised Opposition' are apt to reckon that Mr. Lloyd George will be gradually and fatally compromised by the more obstinate or designing Conservatism. The latter apparently still hopes to defeat Electoral Reform, to upset the Speaker's compromise, to thwart any effective dealing with the liquor traffic. Now, the only alternative to the Speaker's compromise on Electoral Reform is universal adult suffrage.

The Society of Women Welders.

II. THE ARBITRATION CASE.

The preparation of this test-case was begun by the Society of Women Welders in May, 1916. One of their members was appointed organising secretary, and to her were brought all the different answers of the employing firms to the persistent requests of the girls for a rise to the man's rate. The first argument used by the girls was that welding, which had been a trade starved by the War Office as indispensable, was no longer, owing to their proved capacity to do it. This was admitted: women were replacing men, absolutely and exactly, and it was one of that small class of clearly demonstrable facts that no one finds it possible to deny. Then, said the girls, you must pay us the man's rate in accordance with Circular L 2 of the Munitions of War Act. To this the employers, acting through the Federation of London and District Engineering Employers, replied that welding did not come under the provisions of that circular, as acetylene welding was an unskilled trade.

Upon receipt of this formal answer, the girls met anxiously together again. If they let it go by unchallenged it meant that they and the men they worked with had both irretrievably lost their skilled standing. The rates would never go beyond 8d., and when once the national necessity was removed they would drop to any unskilled figure: the skilled men welders would be driven out and the standard of pay would be grievously cut by the introduction of women. They resolved that their work for their country should not have such a dangerous and disastrous result, if fight of theirs could prevent it.

Application was therefore made to the Board of Trade for a judgment on this question—whether oxy-acetylene welding was or was not the work of a fully skilled tradesman. According to the regulations governing cases of appeal, a settlement should be granted within three weeks. It takes little experience to learn, however, that indefinite delay is the almost invariable practice. The Secretary of the Welders tried, by every available means, to speed things up. The case was ready, the papers and witnesses prepared, the grievance increasing, and the welders growing sadly discouraged, and yet the Board of Trade did not act. The employers trained more welders in the workshops, and paid them at 4d. or 5d. The Society of Women

Welders opened its doors to them, and determined that the case of one woman welder was the case of all. It forced up their wages here and there, sometimes as high as 8d., and encouraged them to ask for their full payment; but the months went by, the work went on, and still the top wages stood near to 8d., and the arbitration hung fire. The House of Commons reiterated, amid universal applause, that women were paid the same rates as men for the same work. The responsible Ministers stated that no case of grievance or violation of the Act existed that did not receive immediate redress, and still the case languished in official pigeon-holes, and still nothing was done.

At last, however, in October, the case was referred to the special arbitration tribunal set up by the Ministry of Munitions for dealing with questions arising from women's wages, and it was duly heard on November 27th, 1916. All the points implied in the case were fully set forth; the technical points were witnessed to by experts, foremen, teachers, and expert welders; the customary rates of pay were vouched for by women and men welders, and they were admitted by employers. The work and training of the women were minutely examined, and samples of work were shown. The hearing, which lasted for four hours, was full and thorough, and when it was over the Society once more hoped for a speedy settlement. Once more, however, a waiting period began, for the tribunal found it necessary to make a number of detailed enquiries before giving judgment. All through December and January the welders waited, their rates of pay here and there rising a little above 8d., but as a rule standing steadily at the flat rate pending the momentous decision. At last, on February 17th, the award came out, its text being as follows:—

(1) The Tribunal finds and awards that processes in oxy-acetylene welding as now performed shall be divided into a fully skilled class and semi-skilled class, and that women of eighteen years of age and over employed on munition work comprising such processes shall be paid as follows:—

ON PROCESSES OF THE FULLY SKILLED CLASS.

The commencing rate shall be 8d. per hour, rising by equal monthly increases until the fully skilled tradesman's rate is reached at the end of a probationary period of three months.

When additional cost is incurred by the employment of women in place

of men, deductions may be made, for so long only as such additional cost continues, from the time rates above specified, not exceeding in any case 10 per cent. of such time rates.

ON PROCESSES OF THE SEMI-SKILLED CLASS.

The commencing rate shall be the rate appropriate to the working week of the women under paragraph 1 (a) (1) of Statutory Rules and Orders, 1917, No. 49, rising by equal monthly increases after the first eight weeks to the rate of 8d. per hour at the end of a probationary period of six months. Women normally employed on processes in the semi-skilled class shall for so long as they are employed on processes in the fully skilled class be paid at the rate for such processes.

(2) Every woman who has served a probationary period as prescribed in this Award shall receive from her employer a certificate to that effect. No woman shall be called upon to serve more than one probationary period in the same class of work.

(3) Nothing in this Award shall operate to prejudice the position of any person who is receiving higher rates than those specified in the Award.

(4) The rates and conditions prescribed in this Award shall be recognised as war rates and conditions, and as due to and dependent on the exceptional circumstances resulting from the war.

(5) This Award is subject to any general order which may be made by the Minister of Munitions as to the payment of women employed on oxy-acetylene welding.

(6) This Award shall operate as from February 5th, 1917. Any period immediately before that date during which a woman has been employed on a process the subject of this Award shall be reckoned in diminution or extinction as the case may be of any probationary period prescribed by this Award.

(7) If any dispute arises as to whether a particular person is of the fully skilled class or the semi-skilled class, or as to the meaning of this Award, or as to the carrying into effect of the principles thereof, or as to the applications of those principles to any cases covered by the Award but not specifically provided for therein, this Tribunal will decide it. Any application for a decision under this paragraph shall be addressed to the Secretary of the Tribunal, 158, Palace Chambers, Bridge Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Signed on behalf of the Tribunal,

C. H. G. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

This award, though not all that the welders claimed, admits their main contention—it admits that welding is, at any rate in some parts, the work of a fully-skilled tradesman, and it admits that none of it is unskilled. It lays down that women welders, if they do the higher work, must receive within three months the man's rate, and that those doing the easier work must receive within six months the 8d. rate. It establishes much that the welders claimed, and secures the workers from losing their place among skilled tradesmen.

At first sight the Society of Women Welders thought that they were now secure. In the face of the award they had won, their members demanded the new wages, and for a few short days they supposed they would get them. But such hopes were short lived, for the firms to which the award primarily applied promptly refused to execute it. Its terms were plain and clear—as plain and clear as the old L2 it amplified; but those employers said that such an award could not apply to them. None of their work was fully skilled, and they therefore refused to make any change in their rates of pay. This contention was, of course, at once objected to by the Society, which immediately applied to the Tribunal for the enforcing of the award, and for the third time the period of waiting began. As we go to press a successful result has just been received, a considerable number of individual welders having been adjudged in the fully-skilled class.

But in spite of this first initial success, the Society has plenty of hard work before it, and the need for its existence and the value of its action grows daily more evident. Every day new welders come into the trade; every day new firms adopt the process, and everywhere, on every day, and in every place the rate-cutting, skill-bellitting process goes on. The fight is not over yet, and all its issues are not yet determined, but the Society of Women Welders grows more and more sure of itself. But for co-operation and co-ordination they would have been, and would still be, helpless—without the exchange of knowledge and mutual advice they would have made grave mistakes; without the support and encouragement of working together for what they believed to be right they would have faltered through the long delays and been misled by their strong opponents. But now, secure and united, keen, strong and hopeful their Society stands firm, determined to establish its just contention and to enforce its legal award; determined to organise the women welders in the kingdom, and to help them all; determined to do good work for good wages, to play fair and to run straight, to help the country without betraying the soldiers who have gone away to fight for it, and determined to prove in their own persons and by their own hard work that women can, when they get the chance, do, and do well, this part at any rate of the work of a fully-skilled engineering tradesman.

RAY STRACHEY

(President Society of Women Welders).

Women Welders' Organisation Fund.

The members of the Society of Women Welders appeal to the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE for subscriptions to help the expenses of their organisation. They are confident that their Society will shortly become self-supporting, but at first their organisation expenses must be heavy, and they trust that those who believe with them that the only protection for women workers is organisation, will help them in their venture

LIST OF DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN WELDERS.

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TESTIMONIALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ALL
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"The Common Cause" Hut.

Our Hut at Coventry is being erected as rapidly as possible, but we regret to say that we have not yet quite collected the £1,000 required. We need just over £100 to complete. We are confident that our readers will not permit the work to be stopped for want of this small sum.

A subscriber wrote to-day:—"Nothing seems to me more important for the country than to provide the girls with proper opportunities for rest and refreshment in the midst of their ordinary work."

If you cannot make shells yourself you can help the women who are so bravely helping their country and risking health and life to provide our boys with the necessary munitions in the fighting line.

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WHAT OFFERS FOR "COMMON CAUSE" HUT?

FOR SALE FOR "THE COMMON CAUSE" HUT.—A George III. half-sovereign, loop attached, and gold ring set with five turquoises, gipsy setting. What offers?—Can be seen at THE COMMON CAUSE Office, 14, Great Smith-st., S.W. 1.

An Illegal Order.

Full details of the Brentford case discussed in our last week's issue (on page 24), have now been collected by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene. The older of the two women illegally examined by the magistrate's order states that she did not know that she could refuse to be examined, and did not know exactly what was going to be done to her. "I understood I could not get out on bail until I had been examined, and I wanted to get back to my baby." (She is nursing the baby, and did not see him from the Tuesday morning till late on Thursday night.) "If I thought I would have to go through all that sort of thing again, I would rather 'do myself in.'" The younger, unmarried, woman, aged seventeen, was equally indignant at the outrage to which she had been subjected, and could not speak of it without tears.

It is quite evident that both the bench of magistrates and the Clerk of the Court were under the impression that they had a perfect right to order medical examination for venereal disease of any woman charged with street offences, on however flimsy evidence, and there is every probability that other magistrates are labouring under the same mistaken idea. Our readers will remember that there was no evidence at all against these two women, and that they were afterwards acquitted. The examination was ordered while they were on remand, and, being unconvicted prisoners, were entitled to the fullest protection of the law. They did not consent to it: their consent was not asked. No apology was made for this outrage.

Answers to questions that have been asked in Parliament are not satisfactory. The Home Office, through Mr. Brace, has informed the House that "the Home Office proposes to ask the Brentford magistrates what justification they had for asking for an examination in this case."

What "justification" can there be for an wholly illegal action? The men who gave such an order should be removed from the Bench, and, since there is evidently considerable misunderstanding as to magistrates' powers, a circular should be sent out from the Home Office to every magistrate, calling his attention to the illegality of any such order.

It is not the first time that the attention of the Home Office has been called to the illegal examinations of women under arrest. The answers received have not been satisfactory, and it is therefore to be hoped that members of the House of Commons will demand some assurance that an end will be put to this high-handed abuse of magistrates' powers.

MOTHERHOOD GRANTS.

A deputation from the Women's Co-operative Guild waited on Lord Rhondda on May 1st to urge a considered scheme of provision for maternity. Any such scheme, they contended, must be universal, without enquiry as to "necessity." They urged the formation of a Maternity Department of the Local Government Board, with a woman of organising capacity at its head. In reply, Lord Rhondda promised that their representations should be carefully considered, and hoped that the measures he had in preparation would have valuable results.

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"THE COMMON CAUSE" FUND.

We are very grateful to the Executive Committee of the Glasgow Society who have kindly voted £5 towards the Funds of THE COMMON CAUSE.

The cost of running a newspaper has very greatly increased since we made our appeal last July. Any financial assistance is therefore very welcome in the present crisis, as we are anxious to keep up the standard of the paper and also not to cut down our pages further. Another way that Societies can materially assist THE COMMON CAUSE, apart from donations, is for them to put all their announcements to members in our advertisement columns. This is a source of revenue to the paper, and in these days of dearer postage should be an advantage to Societies. Remember, also, IF YOU HAVE A WANT, MAKE IT KNOWN THROUGH THE COMMON CAUSE.

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The Glasgow Society for Women's Suffrage	551	11	0
	5	0	0
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"GHOSTS."

Ibsen's "Ghosts," translated by Mr. William Archer, was produced at the Kingsway Theatre on Saturday. This wonderful, terrible play, which was perfectly acted, evidently made a great impression upon the audience. It is extraordinary that such a play, with its moral lessons so tragically brought forward, should have been banned so long. "Ghosts" should be seen by all thinking people.

Correspondence.

THE ABNORMAL EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

MADAM,—The Report of the Departmental Committee calls for immediate action by all who are interested in the future welfare of our children. Appointed to consider what steps should be taken to make provision for the education and instruction of children and young persons after the war, regard being had particularly to the interests of those (1) who have been abnormally employed during the war, it recommends that in the next Education Act these children should be regarded as a hopeless problem for which nothing can be done by legislation.

As there are no complete figures available, it is impossible to say how many children will be affected by this decision. But the report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education, January, 1915, estimates that approximately 60,000 children of school age entered industry last year at an earlier age than they would in normal times. Incomplete as these figures are, they enable us to form an approximate estimate of the dimensions of the problem we are creating for the future. If our democratic movements fail to do their duty by these children, in less than a decade they will have begun to reap the fruits of their apathy, and new chains, forged by their indifference, will shackle them to an uneducated mass of men and women, more formidable in its resisting power to democratic aspirations than all the vested interests of a propertied class.

Further, the Committee's recommendation "to require attendance for not less than 8 hours per week, or 320 hours a year, at day continuation classes between the ages of 14 and 18" is hopelessly inadequate. The enquiries of the Workers' Educational Association convince us that the people of this country are prepared for a much bolder scheme. We propose:

(a) That compulsory part-time education of not less than 20 hours per week (including time spent in organised games and school meals) be provided free for all such young persons as are not receiving full-time education;

(b) That the hours of labour for all young persons under the age of 18 be limited to a maximum of 25 per week.

Our policy is the bolder. Do not let that frighten us, it is the more practical of the two. A scheme for half-time system will fit in much more readily with the normal organisation of the factories and workshops of our principal industries than a scheme for eight hours a week in the schools, the remainder being left for industrial employment.

Mr. Fisher's speech on the 18th was a clear indication that he awaits a mandate for something bigger and bolder than he believes to be possible at present. That mandate must come from the people.

J. M. MACTAVISH,
General Secretary.

THE FARM COLONY FOR WOMEN.

MADAM,—The article by Miss Royden suggests a rational method of providing opportunities for recovery and a fresh outlook for those who need it. There is a point I would like to bring forward, because it is a tendency ignored, and yet, if it is allowed to grow, is the undoing of many fine beginnings of this kind. I refer to the attempts, generally made *sub rosa*; to turn such institutions into quasi religious orders. It is a remnant of mediæval barbarism, the effects of which are obvious to anybody who cares to watch them. Full opportunities should be given to all to follow their own conscience in religious matters, but no sort of social, or other pressure should be tolerated, however plausibly presented. If we are to have our religion pure, surely it must be first of all honest, private and personal.

BERTHA AIKIN.

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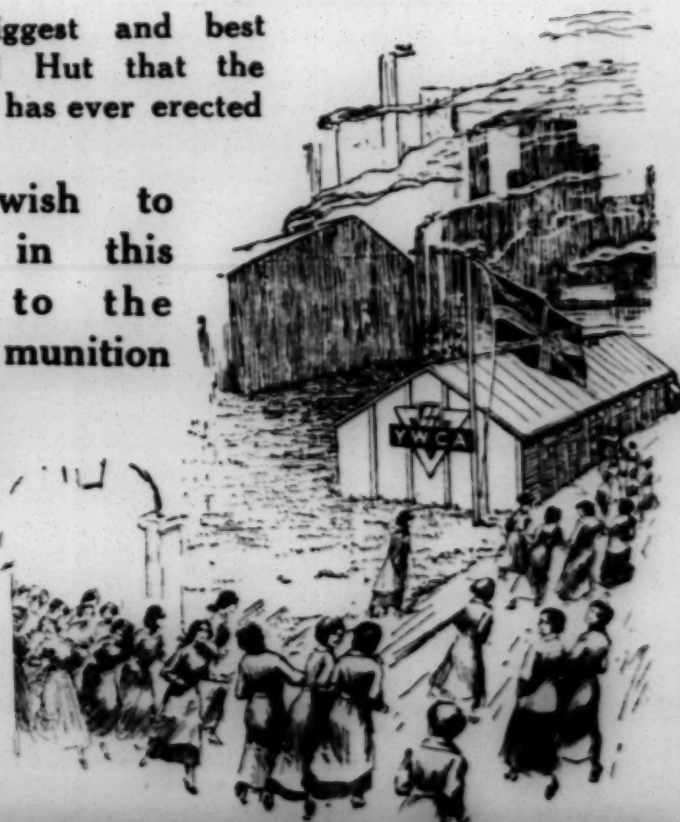
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THE WOMEN'S MUNICIPAL PARTY

Non-Party

President and Chairman: THE DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH
Vice-Chairman: THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. PERCY BOULNOIS

Current Work—Information for members

COUNCIL MEETING

This was held on Thursday, April 26th, at Sunderland House.

The following were elected to the Executive Committee:—

President: The Duchess of Marlborough
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Percy Boulnois
Mrs. Percy Abbott
The Lady Frances Balfour
Mrs. Banister-Fletcher
Lady Barrett, M.B., M.S.
Mrs. Percy Bigland
The Viscountess Cowdray
Miss Eleanor Rathbone
Mrs. Pember Reeves

The following Resolutions were passed unanimously:—

"That Object 1 now reads: To promote the candidature of women for the London County Council, Westminster City Council, Metropolitan Borough Councils and Boards of Guardians, all Local Governing Bodies in Greater London and elsewhere as occasion arises."

"That Object 5 shall read: To organise Local Advisory Committees and Women's Municipal Party Citizen Associations."

"That Rule IV shall read: The Council shall consist of the Honorary Officers, the Executive Committee, the Chairman and Hon. Secretary of each Local Advisory Committee, and 100 women members elected by the Party."

Drawing Room Meeting to be held at Mrs. Charles Hancock's, 125, Queen's Gate, S.W., on Tuesday, May 8th. Chair: Lady Frances Balfour. Speakers: The Duchess of Marlborough on Infant Welfare. Lady Campbell: Creches. Lady West: Communal Kitchens.

All particulars of the Women's Municipal Party to be obtained from the Secretary, 7, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W.1.

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(University of London)

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For further information and for the College Calendar, giving full particulars of the ordinary courses of study, and of the Scholarships and Bursaries available, apply to the Principal.

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Getting into Step.

The Electoral Reform Bill will very shortly be before the country. Let us, while we are waiting, consider one or two points in regard to our own attitude towards it.

This will be the first Franchise measure which will deal with both men and women. This is a most important fact; and it should, if we appreciate it fully, have a great effect upon the relation in which women stand towards political life. There are among supporters of Women's Suffrage persons who wish that the fortunes of Women's Suffrage were not linked closely together with the fortunes of an extended enfranchisement of men, of University representation, proportional representation, and other matters. They would say that the prospects of Women's Suffrage are "complicated" by this alliance with other reforms of the national representative system. But surely, if they look further into the subject, they will see that this is a mistaken and shortsighted view.

At what have we Suffragists been aiming all these years? Surely our object has been to get the whole body of the nation marching forward in step together. We have sought to join the forces of women workers—poor or rich, wage-earners or unpaid—to the forces of men workers. We have desired to effect a co-operation of our forces. We have emphatically not desired that women should merge themselves in the political and other organisations of men. It was, indeed, at this point that in the past many suffragists parted company from other women who (whether mildly Suffragist or not in their sympathies) were inclined to pursue the policy of immolation rather than of co-operation. Their view was in many cases a comprehensible one. They desired to forget their electoral disabilities and throw themselves into party politics as though those disabilities did not exist. They were like a man who marches in tight boots and says that in the spirit he goes forward if his feet do not. They tried to appear to be at a stage of political progress which they had not actually reached on their own political feet, so anxious were they to forget the hindrances which forced them to lag behind their favoured company of male politicians.

It is possible, however, to err in the opposite direction. It is possible to watch our own step so closely that we miss the vital moment when we might fall into movement with the rest. This vital moment is now near at hand. Therefore, the suggestion which may be offered to members of our National Union is this. Let us watch over our Women's Suffrage cause as closely as ever. Let us try most carefully to realise the full scope of the Women's Suffrage resolution carried by the Speaker's Conference—its probable effect for good upon the women of Great Britain and Ireland, and its great possibilities in the direction of social, educational, and industrial reform. Let us acquaint members of Parliament with the general desire for Women's Suffrage that is felt in their constituencies. Let us, in short, not relax our attention on the Women's Suffrage part of the Conference resolutions, or on the Women's Suffrage part of the Bill, when the Bill is published. But at the same time—and this is the object of the present remarks—do not let us fail to study the Bill as a whole. Let us interest ourselves in the representation of the people as a whole. For of that whole, our Women's Suffrage movement is a part. There are people to whom Justice seems a dreary figure; and when they are told that "the vote is a measure of justice," they feel (and hope) that no more will be said. But electoral justice, representative justice, is in reality a grand and beautiful thing. Without it—as the whole world is now seeing—nations are doomed to misgovernment and despair; with it in perfection the whole people uses all its powers, and uses them with joy to itself and mutual benefit. To absolute perfection the representative system has never yet attained. Even peoples

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who have universal suffrage may have such systems of voting and of the distribution of voting power as serve to check the public spirit of some of the best of their citizens. It behoves us, then, while concentrating our attention on the acquisition of the vote, to look also at some of these subjects of electoral distribution and representation with which the approaching Bill must deal. Moreover, let us not forget this consideration. The members of both Houses of Parliament who are desirous of enfranchising women are, in general, those who desire ultimately that full and even representation of the nation which makes for national strength and for national security. The opponents are, for the most part, persons who do not desire such complete representation. They fail to perceive, in

spite of all the upheavals which are occurring, that this complete representation is an ultimate good; and they imagine that by pulling the voting power, now a little in this direction and now in another, to help some immediate legislative fancy or party idea, they are acting as astute politicians. It is for us, then, as believers in popular government, to make common cause with all those who demand "The Bill, the whole Bill, and nothing but the Bill." Its provisions, so far as we can anticipate them, will not give the sexes electoral equality, but they will materially lessen the inequality from which we have so long suffered.

Therefore, "Left, right; left, right"—let us fall into step!
M. H.

The Need for Women Guardians.

There are 641 Poor-Law Unions in England and Wales. It will probably be a surprise to many people to learn that amongst them no less than 185 have no women Guardians. The total number of women Guardians in England and Wales is 1,583, 205 of these being also Rural District Councillors. The following list shows the number of Unions in each county on which there are only men serving:—

ENGLAND.—Beds. 1, Berks. 3, Bucks. 2, Cambs. 2, Cheshire 4, Cornwall 4, Cumberland 3, Derbyshire 2, Devon 7, Dorset 4, Durham 4, Essex 2, Glos. 7, Herefordshire 2, Herts. 3, Hunts. 1, Kent 10, Lancs. 3, Leicestershire 4, Lincs. 5, London 0, Middlesex 0, Mon. 0, Norfolk 7, Northants 4, Northumberland 6, Notts. 2, Oxfordshire 2, **Rutlandshire 2*, Salop 10, Somersetshire 5, Southampton 9, Staffs. 5, Suffolk 6, Surrey 0, Sussex 6, Warwickshire 6, Westmoreland 1, Wilts. 5, Worcestershire 3, Yorks. (East Riding 3, North Riding 8, West Riding 9).

WALES.—Anglesey 1, Brecknockshire 2, Cardiganshire 2, Carmarthenshire 2, Carnarvonshire 0, Denbighshire 1, Flintshire 1, Glamorganshire 1, Merionethshire 0, Montgomeryshire 1, Pembrokeshire 0, **Radnorshire 2*.

Each Board of Guardians has the right to co-opt two members other than the chairman, who may also be co-opted from outside the Board. Of the 185 Boards without women members, only 23 have fully used this power; of the rest, 34 have co-opted one member only, and 128 have co-opted none.

This list is in some respects a surprising one. As a rule, it is most difficult to obtain women Guardians in rural districts, where frequently the Workhouse is at some considerable distance from the houses of those women who would be able and willing to undertake such duties. It may not be strange that Durham and Cornwall should have four womenless Boards; but that Kent should have ten, and the W. Riding of Yorkshire no less than nine, seems to require some explanation.

DISCOURAGING APATHY OF THE ELECTORS.

Possibly the formation of branches of the Women's Local Government Association in those counties which are most deficient, might be useful. It is very evident that there are still many people who fail to appreciate the grave evils that may arise in Poor Law Institutions where there are no women Guardians; or, indeed, the enormous importance of the work as a whole. In some places it is said that of late years the general type of Poor Law Guardians has deteriorated; the complaint is often heard that when a good Guardian retires, it is increasingly difficult to get an equally satisfactory substitute. Possibly, since the war has laid claim to the services of both men and women in many capacities, this may be true at the present moment; but if it is a fact that the office of Poor Law Guardian is falling more generally into disrepute, then it is deeply to be regretted; the blame is, however, not altogether with the new Guardians, but rather with those electors—male or female—who have failed to realise their personal responsibility in the matter. If electors made it plain that they valued a high standard of efficiency and conscientiousness in their Guardians, they would, in the first instance, more frequently bestir themselves to find good candidates; would subsequently canvass and support them at elections, and finally would take some little interest in their work afterwards, then there would not be so many captious complaints as to "the rotten Board we have here."

With regard to this last point of taking an interest in the work of the Guardians, there is probably nothing quite so discouraging to a Guardian who has been putting up a good fight on a matter of principle than to find that, although all the proceedings have been fully reported in the local paper, practically no one outside the Board-room knows, or cares, anything about the matter. Not long before the war, it was stated that in a Guardian Election in London, less than 30 per cent. of the electors voted. Such an indolent and inefficient

electorate has no ground for complaint if their representative (passive or active) is equally indolent and inefficient.

VARIED AND FAR-REACHING DUTIES.

The duties of the Board of Guardians are more far-reaching in the welfare of the community than many realise. The great question of the care of the children alone, must have enormous effects on the future of the country.

The rival claims of special Colonies and Cottage Homes are often fiercely contended. The former are easier to run—their complete temporary success is very much more pleasing to the casual observer than the rough-and-ready Cottage Home, which definitely aims at reproducing natural working-class life and surroundings, and therefore of necessity shows some of its drawbacks. It needs a student of child-life to recognise under the beautiful Colony, with all its excellent schools, gymnasia, playing-grounds, and workshops within its ring-fence, some of the most dangerous attributes of original Workhouse life. The artificiality of existence under these conditions—the deficiency of personal responsibility amongst the growing children, and last, but not least, the utter lack of the great educative power of temptation—are far more evident to women Guardians than to men.

Then there is the great question of out-relief. There are two grave dangers to be combated. The first is the idea that it is cheaper to give out-relief than to bring people into the House. At first sight it seems plausible enough to argue that it is better policy to give an unsatisfactory family 5s., or even 10s. weekly, than to maintain the whole lot indoors. But if there are children being brought up in bad homes, or no homes at all, the cheapest thing for the State—to put the matter on the lowest ground alone—is to remove and save them while there is still time to turn them into decent citizens. The same argument is true when dealing with relief to widows with children. Where the home and the mother are good, every effort should be made to keep them together; but where the mother is dirty and idle, drunken or immoral, the wisest form of relief is to "take the children off her hands." As a rule, the main idea in the minds of the women Guardians is to save the children. It is, however, quite true that a woman may become unsatisfactory through just "losing heart" in circumstances of grinding poverty and ill-health, and, therefore, it is never wise to suggest taking the children away until she has been given a proper chance, with adequate relief, and, if possible, a little friendly supervision and advice; but if she fails to respond to this treatment—if the children continue dirty, ill-fed, and the house neglected—then surely no sentimental reason should be allowed to favour the continuance of out-relief for the maintenance of a home that is thoroughly unsatisfactory. These are points where it is necessary for women to assist men to a wise judgment.

The question of respectable old people to whom out-relief has rightly been given for some years, often becomes increasingly difficult as they grow crippled and infirm, and consequently their houses and persons grow more and more dirty and neglected. There comes a time when it is imperative they should receive further care and attention, either in their homes or elsewhere. Here it is necessary sometimes to be cruel to be kind, and in the choice of the right moment for action—often in persuading the old person that the Infirmary is really not the same as the Workhouse—there is very special work for women.

WHERE WOMEN'S HELP IS ESSENTIAL.

These are the points where women and men Guardians work well together, though often they take different points of view. But there is Poor Law work of which it is hardly

* The counties with no women guardians are printed in italics.

too much to say that some at least of it *must* be done by women, or left undone altogether—the superintendence of food and clothing and household expenditure, the superintendence and allotment of the work of women inmates, the care and supervision of the babies and nursing-mothers, and above all the care of girl-mothers and the maternity wards.

In connection with this last, it may fairly be urged that it should be mainly in the hands of a sub-committee of women (additional women in connection with local rescue work can be co-opted, if necessary), and their Chairman should report to the whole Board. Where the services of a Woman Assistant Relieving Officer can be obtained, it is certainly very advisable; but the necessity for her appointment is rarely recognised on a Board which has not already a fair proportion of Women Guardians upon it. When the extreme youth and inexperience of many of these girl-mothers are remembered, and also the intimate nature of the necessary enquiries as to evidence of paternity, &c., it is quite clear that such investigations should only be made by women.

In the near future there will probably be a considerable extension under the Poor Law of duties concerning the care and treatment of those suffering from venereal disease.

It is clear that what is needed in such cases is an enlightened policy that will consider them rather as patients than as criminals, and that will insist upon the help—both physical and moral—afforded by fresh air and suitable employment, as well as occupation during leisure, in addition to modern and adequate medical treatment. We must look to women Guardians to initiate this programme on many Boards.

We hear much of the question of "forcible detention" in this connection. It is the general experience of those who have already attempted to help cases of like nature, that where they are kindly treated in cheerful surroundings, the eagerness is not to go, but to be allowed to remain.

Wherever there is a widespread desire to go away, it will generally be found that there is not that wise and sympathetic management which alone can ensure good results.

Women are probably quicker to recognise the "right type" of woman for such difficult and delicate work than even the most efficient of men.

Where the majority are happy and willing to stay, and yet an occasional girl shows an overwhelming desire to "get out," it will almost always be found, on further investigation, that she is feeble-minded, or a moral degenerate, with pronounced sex tendencies of periodic recurrence; such cases should always be carefully watched and reported upon to the medical authorities. Experienced women can often protect a mental defective of not very obvious character from being classed and treated as "hopelessly depraved."

After the war it is probable that there will be many reforms and changes under the Poor Law. If women are to have their full share in deciding the nature of such alterations, and the best methods of carrying them out, it is essential that they should at once come forward in greater numbers to offer their services as Poor Law Guardians, so that when the time comes, they may be ready and competent to take their part in the policy of reconstruction.

L. NOTT-BOWER, P.L.G.

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

IN MEMORIAM: MISS RUTH HOLDEN.

Miss Ruth Holden's most intimate friend at Newnham College has kindly sent us the following notice, which will, we feel sure, be of interest to our readers:—

"Ruth Holden was a citizen of the United States of America, and a graduate of Radcliffe College, Boston. She took the M.A. of Harvard in 1912, and chose research in palaeobotany as her professional career. She showed from the first a wonderful keenness of observation and that sense of proportion which is so essential to a research worker in science, and in 1913 she was elected to a travelling scholarship which she held for two years in succession. She came to England and entered at Newnham as a post-graduate student, continuing her work in the Botany Schools at Cambridge. Her studies there on the anatomy of the fossil conifers were on the same high level as her earlier work in America, and there is no doubt that by her death science has lost a valuable worker. The outbreak of the world

war found her still in England. It was impossible for a person of her active temperament to remain a spectator of the great business of war, and she threw herself from the very first into work for the Red Cross, devoting to it a large part of her spare time. In the summer of 1915 she was elected to a Fellowship at Newnham. She was very proud of her success, and looked forward with eagerness to the opportunities given by three years to devote to research. But, though her keenness for her work was great, her realisation of the urgency of war-work was still greater, and at Christmas, 1915, she postponed the holding of her fellowship to join the first Millicent Fawcett Unit for Russia.

"The bare facts of her career, stated coldly in the few foregoing notes, cannot give any vision of what was to her many friends her most striking characteristic—her wonderfully vivid personality. She had beyond everything the power of living every minute of her life to its utmost; whatever she did she did with her whole heart. She could revel in the keen bodily enjoyment of physical exercise, and also gain happiness of spirit from the beauties of church architecture and church music. She was intensely interested in the politics of her own country, and a firm believer in the justice of the woman's cause. Her keen, clear mind, her geniality, her never failing courage and good humour, made friends for her wherever she went, and in more than one home in England she was welcomed as a member of the family. Her loss to her friends is irreparable, but they have the consolation of knowing that for herself, though her life was short, it was crowded to the full with the excitements and adventures which she loved so dearly. She came to the help of the Allies when her country was still a neutral power, feeling that it was incumbent on individual Americans to do all they could by private endeavour. The entry of the American nation into the war, which she just lived to see, must have filled her cup of happiness to the brim."

Miss Moberly, late administrator of the Unit, writes as follows:—

"Ruth Holden came to Petrograd as a V.A.D. with our first unit in January, 1916, and since then her experiences and work have been of a most varied character. She was absolutely fearless and had an insatiable love of adventure. She journeyed the length and breadth of Russia by herself, picking up the language and acting as messenger, accountant, store-keeper, V.A.D., or whatever else was required of her, with a zest which viewed even acute discomfort and hunger as a 'lark,' while she showed a cheery patience and self-effacement under the most trying circumstances, which won my heartfelt admiration. After the first six months, when an interpreter was no longer essential to me, she travelled with me as secretary, and I grew to depend more and more on her sound common-sense and clear-headedness, while her delightful sense of humour made a welcome relief in times of strain. Whatever she undertook she did well and promptly, and at one time she was doing a man's work, sorting and repacking stores, shifting bales and packing cases, despatching them from goods stations, and generally proving invaluable. The Russians loved her, and a lady doctor in Kazan told me that she looked on her almost as a daughter. She was a great deal in Kazan, and at odd times managed to continue her scientific work in the University laboratories there, which gave her the keenest pleasure. She had handled motors since she was twelve, and was looking forward to driving our motor-ambulance in Galicia; but, when I left Russia, her efforts to get it through the Customs had been unavailing. For all I know to the contrary, the necessary formalities for clearing it have not yet been achieved! She was on her way to work again as a V.A.D. at our hospital in Chulpanova, where they were terribly short of nurses, when she developed typhoid at Kazan, and, after she had apparently completely recovered, and was hoping to return to her home in Boston, *via* Siberia, meningitis supervened. It is impossible to express one's sense of the tragedy of her death. She was by far the youngest of all our *personnel*, very healthy and vigorous, and, apart from her mental capacity, she never seemed to have grown up at all, but reminded one irresistibly of a delightful schoolboy. It is some consolation to reflect that she greatly loved the people and the land for which she has given her life, and she told me more than once that nothing in the future could ever make her regret having volunteered for this work."

We are glad to announce that Dr. King Atkinson, with two V.A.D.s—Mrs. Eldred and Miss Hobart—reached Bergen safely last week. Before this is in our readers' hands we hope they will be on their way to Galicia.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:

MISS VIOLET EUSTACE.
MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary)
MISS EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:

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A memorial has been sent by the Bristol W.S.S. to the members of Parliament for the Bristol constituencies, and memorials are in process of arrangement in the following constituencies:—

Accrington.	Hastings.
Altrincham.	Kingston (Surrey).
Birmingham.	Knutsford.
Cardiff.	St. Augustine's (Kent).
Guildford.	Winscomb.

Deputations have been received by Mr. Ernest Gardner (E. Berks.), the Hon. Arthur Mills (Uxbridge), and Sir E. A. Goulding (Worcester), and deputations are in process of arrangement from the following constituencies:—

Chertsey.	Portsmouth.
Chester.	Preston.
Howdenshire.	Whitby.
Leeds.	York.

1917 Franchise Fund.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	1,276	3	8	Miss Edith Bryant ...	10	0	0
Darlington W.S.S. ...	1	0	0	Mr. J. C. G. Sykes, C.B. ...	2	2	0
Oxford and Lymington W.S.S. ...	1	1	0	Portsmouth W.S.S. Rummage ...	3	11	8
Mrs. Edward Smithson ...	5	0	0	Sale ...	1	10	0
Miss F. M. Grace Bradford ...	3	0	0	Falmouth W.S.S. ...	1	10	0
Mrs. T. Hess ...	1	0	0	Brighton and Hove W.S.S. ...	3	14	0
Exmouth W.S.S. ...	2	2	0				
Mr. J. W. Diboll ...	2	6					
Miss J. B. Joyner ...	10	0					
Miss Lys Forster ...	5	0					
					£1,301	11	10

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	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since				AFFILIATION FEES.			
November 1st, 1916 ...	1,085	9	11	Walsall W.S.S. ...	5	0	
Received from April 23rd to				Warwick and Leamington			
28th, 1917:—				W.S.S. ...	1	4	0
SUBSCRIPTIONS.				Romford and District W.S.S.			
Miss R. Hovey ...	50	0	0	(Instalment of fee) ...	3	9	
Miss Rosanna Powell ...	2	6		Holt W.S.S. ...	5	0	
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Please address letters containing money either to the SECRETARY, or to Miss Auerbach or Miss Sterling by name, *not* to the Treasurer.

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

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	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	11,604	3	7	Oxford W.S.S. (additional), Dr.			
Miss F. M. Grace Bradford ...	3	0	0	King Atkinson's Meeting ...	3	0	0
Dr. King Atkinson's Meeting				Mrs. Fry ...	1	1	0
at Bristol (additional), Mrs.				Miss Jex Blake ...	1	1	0
Philip ...	5	0	0	Blackheath Branch London			
Miss Emily Leith ...	1	1	0	Soc. for W.S.S. collection at			
Mr. J. W. Diboll ...	2	6		meeting ...	5	8	0
Per Dr. King Atkinson:—							
Dr. Helen Goldberg Saul ...	1	0	0				
Mrs. Herford ...	1	1	0				
Dr. Nesta H. Perry ...	10	8			£11,626	8	7

Further donations should be sent to the Countess of Selborne, or to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W. Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed "London County & Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch."

The following cablegram has been sent from Vancouver to Sir Robert Borden, now in London for the Imperial Conference:—"British Columbia United Suffrage Societies endorse Fawcett letter demanding equal suffrage for women. Urge your help.—United Suffrage Societies."

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Further donations received to April 26th, 1917:—		Mrs. E. F. Marshall	5 0
*Greenock Academy Pageant, per Alex. Gemmell, Esq., Rector: Per Miss Etta Shankland (Corsica)	80 4 8	Miss Beatrice Green, per Mrs. Russell	2 0
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*Miss Howell, in payment of appeals, per Miss Craigie	12 0	Miss Coullie (East Lothian), proceeds of concert	3 3 0
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Women's Guild, Titwood Parish Church, per Miss J. Innes, Secretary	5 0 0	Miss Tunnicliffe, per Dr. Ivens (Royaumont)	2 2 0
*Kilsyth and District War Relief Fund Committee, per Mrs. Moncrieff, for "Kilsyth and District" Beds (Royaumont and Salonica)	50 0 0	*Per Miss Low: Dunedin Steamship Co. (£50), A. McIntosh, Esq. (£20), Thos. Douglas, Esq. (£5)	75 0 0
*Proceeds of Sale of "Teddy Bear Poems," per Miss Agnes Haig	1 1 0	*Staff and Pupils Stand Grammar School, per Miss Beckett, for "Stand Grammar" bed (Royaumont)	25 0 0
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A Patient	1 0 0	*Paisley W.S.S., per Miss Mary C. Todd, Hon. Treas., £25 to renew a "Paisley" bed in Serbia for 4th six months; £25 to name "Paisley John Neilson Institution" bed for 3rd six months (Corsica)	50 0 0
Miss Muriel M. Weaver	5 0 0	Mrs. Baines	1 1 0
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Mrs. Edward Thurston	2 2 0	D. L. Rayner, Esq., c/o Miss Brunton	3 0
*Per Miss Etta Shankland, 3rd penny a week collection, week ending April 11th (Corsica)	23 13 6	Mrs. Vass and Mr. Nicholas Vass	5 0 0
*Per Miss Bury: Employees Messrs. W. F. Stewart & Co., for "Gala" bed	2 15 0	*Mrs. Houlson Crauford: Part proceeds of "Glen Saturday," per Mrs. Robertson, towards further upkeep of "Crauford Glen" bed (Royaumont), another six months	25 0 0
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*Per Mrs. Robertson: Employees and Staff Messrs. Saxone Shoe Co., Ltd.	4 16 4	*Newcastle-on-Tyne Com., per Mrs. Duff, Hon. Treas.	1 0 0
*Proceeds of Concert by Ladyburn Schoolchildren, per Miss McKinlay, per Miss Isabelle Kerr, local S.W.H. Sec. (Corsica)	18 5 3	Proceeds of collection of Waste Paper, Ancrum Village and District	1 13 1
*Sixth instalment from Waste Paper and Waste Material Scheme, per Miss Isabelle Kerr	35 0 0	Miss Masterton, per Mrs. Gunn	5 0
Mrs. Bayne Jardine	2 2 0	Miss Hilary Wilson and Mr. John Bardsley, Proceeds of a play	5 0
Mrs. Roberts (Crick Rectory), from Meeting in Village	8 10	Anonymous	5 0
*Per Miss Kathleen Burke, per Messrs. Morgan, Grenfell & Co., per Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co., New York	1,000 0 0	*Per Miss Kathleen Burke, per Messrs. Morgan, Grenfell & Co., per Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co., New York	1,000 0 0
*H. Lightbody, Esq.	1 1 0	Rutherglen Parish Church Women's Guild, per Miss A. F. Scott	3 3 0
*Per D. Drummond Fraser, Esq., for Manchester and Dist. Fed. Hospitals, S.W.H. (Corsica), per Mrs. Chapman	200 0 0	Anonymous	2 0 0
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"Paisley" (Serbia) (further, 4th 6 months)	Paisley W.S.S., per Miss Mary G. Todd, Hon. Treas.
"Paisley John Neilson Institution" (Corsica) (further, 3rd 6 months)	Paisley W.S.S., per Miss Mary G. Todd, Hon. Treas.
"Crauford Glen" (Royaumont) (further 6 months)	Mrs. Houlson Crauford, per Mrs. R. G. Robertson, Morningside, Kilmarnock.
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LONDON UNITS OF THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

The Band of the Inns of Court O.T.C. (Conductor, Sydney Payne), will be giving a splendid concert at Queen's Hall, on May 20th, at 3 p.m., in aid of the London Units and the Paddington Free Buffet. Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay, who is inimitable in her songs and ballads, will assist, and Mrs. Foster Salmond will also sing. Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson will recite excerpts from his Shakespearian repertoire by special request. The programme of the Band will include:—

"In Memoriam" (Overture)	Sir A. Sullivan.
"Merrie England" (Fantasie)	Edward German.
"Crown of India Suite"	Sir Ed. Elgar.
"Shepherds Hey"	Percy Grainger.
Britannia Overture	Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

(Conducted by the composer.)

Tickets (numbered) Grand Circle, 4s.; Stalls, 4s. and 3s.; (unnumbered) Balcony, 2s.; Area, 1s.; to be obtained from Miss May Curwen, Scottish Women's Hospitals, 66, Victoria Street, S.W. 1., until May 16th; afterwards at Queen's Hall Box Office.

The Motor Transport requires £1,000 at once:—

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In connection with the Summer Term Training Course for Voluntary and other Infant Welfare Workers three Courses of Lectures will be given at the above address.

Miss M. HUNT, M.D., D.S., D.P.H., M.A., B.Sc. will give 12 LECTURES on "HOME NURSING" on Tuesdays at 2 p.m., commencing on May 1st, and 8 LECTURES on "THE CARE OF THE MOTHER" on Thursdays at 3 p.m. commencing on May 3rd.

Mrs. FLORA SHEPHERD, M.B., will give 12 LECTURES on "THE CARE OF THE INFANT" on Fridays at 5.30 p.m.

Syllabus of the Three Courses may be had on application to the Secretary.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

CHESTER.—A members' meeting was held on April 25th at Haswell's Café. Miss Tomkinson took the chair, and Miss Cherry (New Brighton W.S.S.) spoke on "The Vote—does it really matter just now?" Up-to-date instances were given to show that the interests of women were not fairly considered under a male government responsible to men only, and the recent position of the female employees thrown out of work by the strike at Barrow was mentioned. Miss Cherry referred to the system of the war bonus and women workers, and also spoke of the difficulties of those not earning a living wage in Government or "controlled" employ, and unable to leave to better themselves.

She objected to Clause 3 of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, and to other ill-considered and unjust methods of attempted "prevention" to be foisted by one sex upon the other.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Redman, and 13s. taken by collection. Good work in propaganda has been done by Miss Huxley, the Hon. Treasurer, and twenty new members have joined the Society this year.

ROTHERHAM.—We were expecting Mrs. Fawcett on Friday, April 27th, and we received a great blow when the news reached us of her indisposition. So it was with fear and trembling

that we awaited 7.30 on Friday night, for the news that Mrs. Fawcett was not coming had leaked out in some quarters, and we thought our expected audience would fail us. However, our wildest hopes were realised when we saw the hall rapidly filling. It was a splendid assembly, representative of almost every class and opinion in Rotherham; I.L.P. enthusiasts were sitting side by side with ardent Tories, pre-war anti-suffragists cheering along with life long sut-fragists.

We have incurred a tremendous debt of gratitude to Mrs. Fisher, Miss Ford, and Mrs. Leathe for their splendid speeches, and for coming at all when they were so tired and busy. Miss Ford stepped into the breach as she alone could—everyone was talking of her lovely speech when the meeting was over, and one valuable sympathiser came to me after the meeting with the words, "I've been nearly convinced for some time, but Miss Ford has completely convinced me; I'll join the Society now," and she did. Petitions were passed round, given in the terms of the resolution, and without any pressing we got seventy-two signatures. Three or four times as many could have been got had we presented the petition a little earlier, for it was getting late when people were signing, and so they were anxious to get home.

Mrs. Fisher's splendid opening speech dealt with the base charges made against us by our friends, the anti-suffragists, and exhorted sut-

fragists to beware of apparent friends, who were really enemies in disguise, and who were bent on wrecking our chances in the Speaker's Bill.

Miss Ford's speech was most comprehensive, and its humour and common sense appealed to all. Mrs. Leathe charmed us all by her vivacious speech. She feared that Britain, the mother of democracy, would be the last to grant this democratic measure of justice to women, unless she did it at once.

We took over £3 in collection, but what was much more important, we gained sympathy and intelligent understanding for our cause. We went away feeling relieved and delighted, but a little sad withal, because our dear leader had not been with us. We hope by this time she has regained her health and strength, and send her our best wishes for many years of health and happiness to come.

SUNDERLAND.—The annual meeting was held on April 27th, at 4, Belford-road, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Walford Common. The chair was taken by Miss Milbanke, and over sixty members were present.

Mrs. Arthur Johnson, the Honorary Secretary, in her report, which was adopted by the meeting, mentioned various items of work undertaken by the Society during the year. In place of a jumble sale for the General Service Fund, a special effort had been made to collect money from the members, and the result was very

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gratifying—£41 5s. having been sent up. The Press Secretary, with the assistance every third week of a member of Committee, continued to send weekly paragraphs to the local paper, and thanks of the Society are due to the Editor of the *Echo* for opening his columns to us.

Members are still helping with the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, and also with the distribution of parcels for the Prisoners of War Fund. Monthly contributions are being sent to the Scottish Women's Hospital. The Infants' Welfare Centre, Tyne-street, originally started by the Suffrage Society, is going on steadily. The attendance, though not large, is regular, and members bring their friends. Large quantities of dried milk are supplied, the babies are doing splendidly, and their clothing is improved. A strong appeal was made for further helpers, especially as visitors.

Eighteen new members had joined the Society, and, under the circumstances, the year might be considered very successful.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. V. A. Mundella, read a report, ending with a balance slightly higher than the balance at the beginning of the financial year. During the year the Society had collected £166 19s. for the Scottish Women's Hospital, making the total sent up, £444 7s. 9d. Over £80 had been raised for purposes of suffrage expenses, including a total in donations to Headquarters of £57 5s. Out of a membership of 186, only nine subscriptions remained unpaid.

After a report on the Council meetings, read by Mrs. Walford Common, one of the Society's delegates, a most interesting address on "Women and Electoral Reform" was given by Mrs. Renton. The members present were evidently very glad to have the opportunity of hearing such a clear and able exposition of the present condition of affairs and the recent history of the suffrage movement.

Items of Interest.

Women are still urgently wanted for work on the land. All able to sign on for the duration of the war should apply to Mrs. Tennant, at St. Ermin's Hotel, S.W. Those only able to undertake temporary unskilled work should make their offer of service to Mrs. Miles Benson, Women's National Land Service Corps, 50, Upper Baker Street, N.W. 1.

Mr. Justice Barton, in Dublin, has dismissed the petition of Miss Georgina Frost to have it declared that she is entitled to the position of Petty Sessions clerk at Six-Mile Cross, County Clare, in succession to her father, who filled the position for forty years. The Crown had refused to sanction her appointment on the ground that a woman was not eligible.

The Edinburgh Justices have decided, owing to the scarcity of male labour, to license suitable women as taxi-cab drivers; but make the ridiculous condition that they must not accept fares later than half-an-hour after sunset!

Westminster Council reports that the women employed in the block street-cleaning gang have been doing their work most satisfactorily, and it is proposed to employ more women for the purpose.

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Forthcoming Meetings.

MAY 4.

Redhill—Colman Institute—Redhill, Reigate and District Women's Suffrage Society, Annual Meeting—Chairman: Mrs. Auerbach—To be followed by a Public Meeting—Mrs. Fawcett will speak on "The Parliamentary Outlook for Women's Suffrage"—Chairman: Rev. F. C. Davies, Vicar of Reigate. 7.30 p.m.

MAY 6.

Birmingham—Central Hall—Speaker: Mrs. Ring. 3 p.m.

MAY 8.

Birmingham—Salfrey College—Speaker: Mrs. Ring. 3.15 p.m.

Darwin—Industrial Hall—Chairman: F. S. Hindle, Esq.—Speakers: Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, Mrs. Cooper. 7.30 p.m.

East Bristol—105, Lawrence Hill—Speaker: Mrs. Townley. 3 p.m.

London—6, Palace Green, Kensington—Hostess: Mrs. Claude Montefiore—Mrs. Wilkins, Chairman of the Women's Land Service Corps, on "The Work of Women on the Land, and Their Place in Agricultural Reconstruction"—Chairman: Miss Palliser. 5.30 p.m.

London—Hampstead Town Hall—Public Meeting—Subject: "Women's Suffrage and Reconstruction"—Chairman: Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D.—Speakers: The Lady Frances Balfour, Mr. J. L. Garvin. 8.30 p.m.

Worthing—St. James's Hall—Public Meeting—Mrs. Stocks will speak on "The Position of Women in a Reconstructed State"—Chairman: Edward A. Smith, Esq. 8 p.m.

MAY 9.

Bristol—40, Park Street—Working Party. 3-5 p.m.

Highgate—21, Hampstead Lane, Highgate, N.—Study Circle—"Some Social and Economic Aspects of the War." 3.30 p.m.

London—Lady Sassoon, "At Home," 46, Grosvenor Street—Hon. Evelyn Haverfield. 3.30 p.m.

London—Streatham, St. Leonard's Hall, Tooting Bec Gardens—Chairman: Rev. G. Brook Jackson—Speakers: The Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Corbett Fisher—Subject: "Present Position of Women's Suffrage." 8.15 p.m.

MAY 10.

Carrow Abbey—Annual Meeting—Hostess: The President, Mrs. James Stuart—Mrs. Corbett Ashby will speak on the Political Situation. 5 p.m.

Scottish Hospital Meetings.

TUESDAY, MAY 8th—Birkenhead, Lecture Hall, Palm Grove Wesleyan Church, Oxtou—Public Meeting in aid of Scottish Women's Hospitals—Chairman: Dr. Macfie Campbell, J.P.—Speakers: Mrs. Shaw McLaren, Miss I. Curwen. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9th—Lady Sassoon "At Home"—Speaker: Hon. Evelyn Haverfield. 4.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9th—A Drawing Room Meeting, kindly given by the Mayoress of Newport—Speaker: Miss Munro Kerr. 3.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 10th—Town Hall Assembly Room, Newport—Chairman: The Mayor of Newport—Speaker: Miss Munro Kerr. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 20th—At Queen's Hall—Concert of the Band of the Inns of Court O.T.C. (See notice.) 3 p.m.

Coming Events.

Miss A. Maude Royden is to preach again in the City Temple, on Sunday, May 20th, both morning and evening. Those who could find no room in the famous church on Holborn Viaduct on the last occasion will be glad to have another opportunity of hearing Miss Royden. Services at 11 and 7.

The Pioneer Players have been compelled to postpone their production of Claudel's play, "The Tidings Brought to Mary," until the end of May, and for their third performance, now fixed for Sunday, May 13th, are producing a triple bill, consisting of "Luck of War," by Miss Gwen John, in which Miss Wish Wynne will appear; "The Quilter," by Sowell Collins, an American dramatist, which will be played by a strong cast, including Mr. Augustus Yorke (of Mr. Potash fame), Mr. Nat Ayer, and Mr. George Elton; and "Death and the Lady," a fine play based on the old ballad of that name, which has been arranged by Mrs. Christopher Lowther and Miss Edith Craig to music by Mr. Christopher Wilson.

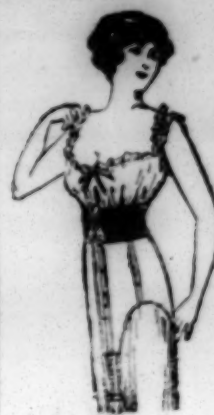
The Modern Languages Association is arranging a series of lectures for the benefit of those interested in the study of modern foreign languages. The first two lectures to be announced are the following:—

Thursday, May 17th, at 5.15 p.m., "Un Poète de la Vie Collective—Jules Romains," to be delivered in French by Gustave Rudier, D.S.L., Professor of French in the University of London, at Bedford College for Women, Regent's Park, N.W. 1.

Monday, June 18th, at 5.15 p.m., "Historia de la Literatura e Historia de Espana hasta nuestros dias," to be delivered in Spanish by J. M. Villasante, LL.D., Lecturer in Spanish in the University of London, at King's College, Strand, W.C. 2.

Members will be admitted free; others may obtain tickets from Miss Batchelor, Bedford College, Regent's Park, N.W. 1, price 1s.

Bedford College for Women (University of London), Inner Circle, Regent's Park, N.W. 1. A course of thirty lectures on "Industrial Economics" will be delivered at the College by Henry Clay, M.A., during the Easter Term, on Mondays, at 5 p.m. And on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m., beginning Monday, May 7th. The first lecture of the course, entitled "Economic Theory and Economic Practice," will be open to the public free, without ticket. The chair will be taken by J. Martin White, Esq.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ASSOCIATION OF ADVERTISING WOMEN—Meeting, May 7th, Connaught Rooms, 8 p.m.—Speakers, Mr. E. B. Osborn and Mr. Frank Souter (of the British Empire Union), on "HOW BRITISH WOMEN CAN HELP TO BUILD UP BRITISH INDUSTRIES NOW AND AFTER THE WAR." All Business women cordially invited. Admission free.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-st., Piccadilly, W. Wednesday, May 9th, 8 p.m. "The Neutralisation of the Turkish Straits," by Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P.

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE—Public Meeting, Tuesday, 5 o'clock, in the New Constitutional Hall, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge. May 8th—"Patriotic Housekeeping" Mrs. Hudson Lyall. Admission free.

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HELP WANTED.

SELLERS urgently needed on Lamp Day, May 11th and 12th, in aid of Women's Service and the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals—Apply at once to Miss Morris, 58, Victoria-st., S.W.

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(Continued on page 44)

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Continued from page 43]

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